(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Presently, the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 is in force. Pricing aspect of the Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002, announced in February, 2002 is before the Supreme Court in SLP(C) No. 3668/2003.

(c) and (d) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has collected data on trade margin being offered by the manufacturers to the retailers for a limited sample. It was noted that some manufacturers had offered high margin to the retailers, however, the market share of such medicines was small.

Demand of fertilizers

1062. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of chemical fertilizers in the country is met with domestic production;

(b) if not, the percentage of average annual demand met by imported fertilizers;

(c) whether Government have fixed any target for marking the country self-dependent in respect of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the time-limit fixed for achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN). (a) The country is nearly self-sufficient in meeting the demand of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers, namely Urea, DAP and NPK complexes. Whenever there is a gap in demand-supply situation of urea, the Government imports urea through State Trading Enterprises (STEs). As regard DAP, being a de-controlled and de-canalized fertilizer, its import depends on prevailing international prices and the domestic market demand-supply situation in the country. As regard MOP, the country

is dependent on total imports in the absence of any exploitable reserves of potash in the country.

(b) There was no import of urea during the last two years. However, in case of DAP, the percentage of demand met by import during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(c) and (d) The Government has been pursuing policies which are conducive for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector so as to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the indigenous requirement of major fertilizers. In case of urea, the Government has recently announced the pricing policy for investment to be made in (a) new and expansion projects of urea and (b) existing non-gas based urea units converting to natural gas/LNG for feedstock/fuel. In Order to augment indigenous availability of urea, IFFCO and KRIBHCO the multi-state cooperative societies, are setting up a joint venture in Sur, Oman with Oman oil Company and the entire production of 16.52 lakh MT of urea will be bought by the Government. On the other hand, installed capacity (54.20 lakh MT in nutrient terms) of phosphatic fertilizers is sufficient enough to meet the current level of requirement (average consumption of 46-47 lakh MT of last three years).

Recovery of overcharged amount

1063. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has sent notices to drug manufacturing companies for overcharging;

(b) if so, the details of notices sent and the amount overcharged by each of the manufacturers alongwith names of drugs; and

(c) the details of amount deposited by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Till the 31st March, 2004, 184 notices for overcharging have been issued by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) towards an estimated overcharged amount and interest